

Israeli Membership in OECD Strengthens Economic Cooperation

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The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development unanimously voted to admit Israel last week as its newest member. The decision to welcome Israel into this group of 30-plus nations is significant recognition that Israel has much to offer the world and a setback to international efforts to delegitimize the Jewish State.

Israel is a democratic nation with an economy based on free market principles. It shares American goals of creating prosperity and new economic opportunities. Israel's high tech- and innovation-driven economy has been one of the world's strongest. It grew last year during the worldwide economic down-turn and is expected to grow by 3.7 percent this year.

As a member of OECD, Israel will offer an important perspective on global challenges and will help nations solve difficult problems. I congratulate Israel for overcoming unfounded objections to its membership and look forward to the contributions Israel will make to this international body.